THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossing on cost sharing basis, the proposals for which are sponsored by the State Govt. concerned duly agreeing to share the cost of construction. No such proposal has been received for Road Over Bridge at Dankuni. construction of Road Over Bridge at Liluah is a sanctioned work. Railway will start construction work on Bridge proper after State Govt. takes up work on approaches. Proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Mourigram in lieu of Level crossing No.K10/23-25 is under planning with State Govt.

International Flights from Calcutta

165. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to operate more international flights from Calcutta;

(b) whether any discussions were held during this year with any foreign countries to increase Air India's flights or to increase flights of foreign airlines from Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During the year 1996, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland and Slovak Republic. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.1996. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Amenities to Passengers at Bally Halt Station

166. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide drinking water, shed, sitting arrangement, urinal, latrin, proper lighting at Bally Halt station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the delay to provide minimum passengers' amenities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Bally is a suburban station of Calcutta and is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, toilets and foot-over-bridge are available. The station is also electrified.

Earnings from Plassey Railway Station

167. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the earnings from Plassey railway station during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and upto September, 1996;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum amenities like drinking water, sheds, sitting arrangements and toilets, etc. to this station;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are also being taken to attract more tourists towards this place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for neglecting this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Total earnings at Plassey railway station during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 & upto September, 1996 are Rs.14 lakhs, Rs.17.02 lakhs, Rs.22.37 lakhs & Rs.10.35 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Plassey railway station is equipped with following amenity items :-

(i) 3 handpumps
1 footover bridge
1 gents waiting room
1 ladies waiting hall
6 Urinals

(ii) Sitting arrangements in Platform No.1 -3.

(iii) Shed on Platform No.1.

(d) to (f). Development of tourism in each state is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for various/ specific schemes based on the proposals received from them subject to the availability of funds and interse priority. So far as Plassey is concerned, neither have the Deptt. of Tourism nor the Railways received any scheme or demand from the State Government or some other agency for developing this as a tourist spot.

Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Murshidabad

168. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the